

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 8

BY SENATORS MARIONNEAUX, ADLEY, AMEDEE, BAJOIE, BARHAM, BOASSO, BROOME, CAIN, CHAISSON, CHEEK, CRAVINS, DARDENNE, DUPLESSIS, DUPRE, ELLINGTON, FIELDS, FONTENOT, B. GAUTREAUX, N. GAUTREAUX, HEITMEIER, HINES, HOLLIS, JACKSON, JONES, KOSTELKA, LENTINI, MALONE, MCPHERSON, MICHOT, MOUNT, MURRAY, NEVERS, QUINN, ROMERO, SCHEDLER, SHEPHERD, SMITH, THEUNISSEN AND ULLO

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the families of United States Army veterans of the Vietnam War, Major Jack L. Barker, Captain John F. Dugan, Sergeant William E. Dillender, and Private First Class John J. Chubb upon the repatriation of the remains of these brave soldiers who gave their lives 35 years ago in southeast Asia in the fight for freedom and democracy in the Republic of South Vietnam.

WHEREAS, Major Barker, Captain Dugan, Sergeant Dillender, and Private Chubb greatly loved the United States of America and were immeasurably dedicated to serving this nation in its struggle to keep the torch of freedom burning wherever the darkness of oppression threatened; and

WHEREAS, Major Barker, Captain Dugan, Sergeant Dillender, and Private Chubb were assigned to Company B, 101st Aviation Battalion, 101st Airborne Division, with an extremely dangerous mission aimed at bringing American troops home safely and turning more of the war effort over to the indigenous personnel of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, these brave warriors were part of a major military push in February of 1971 by South Vietnamese ground forces to sever enemy lines of communication, resupply, and reenforcement coming south on the Ho Chi Minh Trail through eastern Laos and threatening friendly forces of all nationalities still stationed throughout all South Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 1971, Major Barker and Captain Dugan, were piloting a Huey helicopter, with Sergeant Dillender serving as Crew Chief, and Private Chubb serving as the door gunner, with their mission to extract South Vietnamese troops hopelessly outnumbered, totally surrounded and in imminent danger of being overrun by hardened North Vietnamese Army regulars; and

WHEREAS, the men of the Screaming Eagles aboard that aircraft, displaying uncommon valor and thinking only of the rescue of trapped allied troops, flew into the enemy infested landing zone 20 miles west of Khe Sahn and engaged a determined, heavily-armed foe; and

WHEREAS, under the withering fire of the North Vietnamese Army guns, the helicopter was struck hard, despite the valiant efforts of Major Barker, Captain Dugan, Sergeant Dillender, and Private Chubb, and crashed, mortally wounding the entire crew; and

WHEREAS, on that day, Major Barker was only 32 years old, Captain Dugan only 23 years of age, Sergeant Dillender only age 19, and Private Chubb a mere 20 years of age, they conducted themselves with the utmost gallantry, highest of military standards, and displayed courage for which they will always be remembered, just as they will remain forever young in the hearts of their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, all of the crew were highly decorated for this action as well as other participants in this action, it must be noted that Major Barker was awarded the United States Army's second highest award for valor, the Distinguished Service Cross, while Captain Dugan, Sergeant Dillender, and Private Chubb received the nation's third highest award for valor, the Silver Star; and

WHEREAS, all members of this lost crew shall receive burial with full military honors now that they have come home, been returned to their loved ones and placed at rest after their long journey.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its most sincere condolences to the families of Major Jack L. Barker, Captain John F. Dugan, Sergeant William E. Dillender, and Private John J. Chubb from a humbled and grateful state and nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the

families of the long overdue heroes and that copies also be transmitted to the Blue Star Mothers of Louisiana when Gold Star Flags are presented to the families in honor of their sacrifices at ceremonies planned for Arlington National Cemetery.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE